

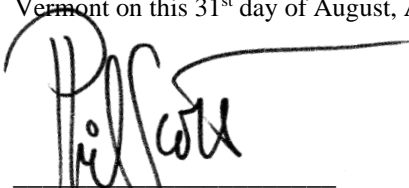
**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is a time to share a message of hope and healing, to destigmatize talking about suicide and accessing treatment, to promote awareness of the suicide prevention resources available to everyone, and to recognize we all have a role to play in preventing suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** suicide is a public health problem that can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. Suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in the state. In 2021, there were [142 suicide deaths among Vermont residents, the highest number and rate of suicide deaths recorded in the state](#); and
- WHEREAS,** it is a priority of the State of Vermont to ensure people struggling with their mental health or with suicidal thoughts know they are not alone, and help is available; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is especially committed to addressing the needs of Vermonters who may be at a higher risk for suicide – including LGBTQ+ and identifying Vermonters, our veterans, people with disabilities, older Vermonters, our youth, people who live in rural areas, first responders, and people who are Black, other people of color and First Nation members; and
- WHEREAS,** all Vermonters will now have access to the support they need through FacingSuicideVT.com – a new, comprehensive statewide prevention initiative. Through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program](#), the Vermont Departments of Health and Mental Health will build on existing partnerships and programs, bolster collective efforts on the integration between health care and mental health, and provide specific resources to people at higher risk for suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** help and supports for people struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts are available 24/7 from the new [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#), by dialing 9-8-8 to be connected to a local crisis center, or by texting VT to 741741. Supports are also available to anyone who is concerned about a loved one or someone they simply know; and
- WHEREAS,** resources and supports are available for people who have lost someone to suicide. Talking to someone who has been through a similar experience can help and [you can find a peer support group near you in Vermont](#); and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont honors our educators, health and mental health professionals, first responders, care providers, community organizations and family members, for their dedication and endurance, which are central to suicide prevention and activities that reduce risk and promote healing after a suicide death.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 2022 as

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

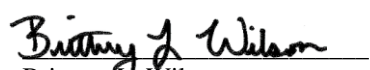
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 31st day of August, A.D. 2022.



Philip B. Scott
Governor





Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs